

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 INR-07 EUR-12 PM-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SZ, AO

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL BY SWISS FIRM TO LEASE HERCULES C-130 AIRCRAFT
FOR USE IN ANGOLA

1. SUMMARY: WE HAVE BEEN ASKED QUOTE UNOFFICIALLY UNQUOTE
BY THE FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (KAUFMANN, DEPUTY CHIEF,
DIVISION II) FOR USG REACTION TO A PROPOSAL THAT UP TO FIVE
LOCKHEED HERCULES C-130 AIRCRAFT BE LEASED OR RENTED BY A SWISS
COMPANY AND OPERATED BY THAT COMPANY IN ANGOLA. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO KAUFMANN, THE SWISS FIRM, A WELL-ESTABLISHED
GENEVA COMPANY DEALING IN AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT LEASING AND
AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HAS APPROACHED THE FPD ASKING FOR ITS
REACTION TO THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL, ALLEGEDLY SUGGESTED TO
THE SWISS FIRM BY LOCKHEED:

UP TO FIVE HERCULES AIRCRAFT WOULD BE LEASED BY THE SWISS
FIRM AND OPERATED BY IT IN ANGOLA ON BEHALF OF A
QUOTE PRIVATE UNQUOTE ANGOLAN COMPANY. THE AIRCRAFT
WOULD BE USED TO TRANSPORT COFFEE AND OTHER HARD-
CURRENCY EARNING EXPORTS FROM THE INTERIOR TO THE
COAST. THEY WOULD NOT BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.
THE LEASING ARRANGEMENT WOULD, HOPEFULLY, BE TEMPORARY,
PENDING APPROVAL OF AN EXPORT LICENSE PERMITTING DIRECT
SALE OF THE AIRCRAFT TO THE ANGOLAN FIRM.

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3. KAUFMANN SAID THAT WHILE THE GOS COULD PREVENT THIS TRANSACTION FROM TAKING PLACE, IT WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO DO SO IF SATISFACTORY PROOF WERE OFFERED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE USED STRICTLY FOR NON-MILITARY PURPOSES. HE FOUND IT INTERESTING THAT ANGOLA WAS TURNING TO THE WEST; SPECIFICALLY THE UNITED STATES; FOR THESE AIRCRAFT. HE REQUESTED AN APPRAISAL OF PROBABLE USG REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: BASIS FOR A RESPONSE TO THIS UNOFFICIAL REQUEST.

DAVIS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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